

in England is outlined. At the conclusion of each chapter questions are provided for discussion and finally there is a useful glossary and a comprehensive bibliography.

To the medical reviewer the authors' lack of consistency in the use of proper names for drugs is irritating, but for the enquiring teenager, student nurse, undergraduate, teacher or youth group leader it is a useful book and probably one of the best of its kind, although some teenagers might feel that the tone was occasionally patronising.

In the introduction the authors quote their sources of information, but reveal nothing about themselves or the field in which they work. Although published by The Religious Education Press the emphasis is on education. E.M.I.

**THE HEREDITARY HAEMOLYTIC ANAEMIAS.** By J. V. Dacie, F.R.S., M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond. (Pp. 37; figs. 7. 7s 6d). Edinburgh: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 1967.

THIS small book is another in the series of lectures and symposia published by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and its subject is the first Davidson Lecture given by Professor Dacie in January of this year. Hereditary haemolytic anaemia is a large topic to encompass in a single lecture but as could be expected from such an authority, Professor Dacie gives an excellent account of the main forms of these anaemias in a manner marked by its conciseness and clarity. The lecture is directed to haematologists and to physicians who have some basic knowledge of haematology. It is mainly devoted to a discussion of hereditary spherocytosis, elliptocytosis, the non-spherocytic haemolytic anamias and the more recently understood hereditary Heinz-body anaemias. It deals with the laboratory findings in these disorders, their inheritance, pathogenesis and the effect of splenectomy in their treatment. The text is enriched by glimpses of the lecturer's extensive personal experience of his subject.

J.H.R.

**BABY GYMNASTICS.** By Detleff Neumann-Neurode. (Revised by Wendula Kaiser; translated from German by Agnes Wenham). (Pp. xii+39; figs. 36. 15s). Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1967.

THIS well intentioned little book very clearly brings out that when physical deformities occur in very early childhood, even a young baby can be made to perform exercises correctly by reflex response to an accurately placed stimulus in the hands of a skilled operator.

The section on advice to mothers seems commonsense, and is probably routine in ante-natal clinics in this country.

In the section entitled "For Mothers—How to Exercise your Baby", some of the exercises are very difficult, and would require intensive tuition from a physiotherapist. One wonders if this is economical and practical? I feel that the emphasis should be rather on regular daily play sessions for a normal baby than on formal gymnastics.

M.J.K.

**TREATMENT OF COMMON SKIN DISEASES:** British Medical Journal. (Pp. 116. 10s). London: British Medical Association, 1967.

THIS little book is made up of articles originally published in the Current Practice section on the treatment of common skin diseases in the British Medical Journal in 1967. It is comparable to the other booklets, namely "Child Care" and "Obstetrics in General Practice", but unlike them, it is in paperback. The articles are written by experienced and senior dermatologists for the most part writing on conditions in which they have been specially interested. The text is orientated entirely towards treatment. One picks out as especially good chapters on "fungal infections of the skin" and "psoriasis". It could be said that if a family doctor was thoroughly familiar with the contents of this book then he would find it comparatively easy to manage the majority of skin diseases which he sees in his practice.

Also I particularly liked the section on ichthyosis although unlike the other sections this does contain material which perhaps would be unfamiliar to a general practitioner. The

advice given here regarding the management of ichthyosis is excellent. Only one of the chapters, namely that on fungal infections of the skin is illustrated. One of the longest chapters is that on the management of warts which reflects the nuisance value of this condition not only in hospitals but in general practice. In spite of this long chapter the opening sentence is the one I like best—"The best way of managing warts is to let them manage themselves".

J.M.B.

**WARD PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES.** By Philip Cooper, M.D. (Pp. xii+303; illustrated. 50s). New York: Appleton-Century and London: Butterworth, 1967.

THE intention of the author is that this book should give "a basic introduction to ward procedures and techniques for clinical clerks, interns, residents. It is intended not only to aid trainees by giving them a better comprehension of these procedures and techniques so that they may perform them intelligently, efficiently and safely, but also to lessen their bewilderment and their anxieties as they start their clinical work". The book should fulfil this aim. It is well written, clear and concise. There is remarkably little repetition, yet hardly any need for cross reference. The price at 50s for a 300 page, 30 chapter paperback is perhaps slightly high for the individual student or houseman. The book should, however, have a most useful role as a ward bench-book, readily available to pre-registration residents and senior house officers.

While the detail of technique recommended might not follow the exact steps currently in vogue in a specialist unit, fundamental general principles are not overlooked. The procedures commonly performed in a unit are not the troublesome ones for a houseman. He soon learns these. It is those not so commonly undertaken which cause anxiety. This book deals with a great number of procedures, ranging from those connected with pre-operative management, through routine diagnostic techniques and more complicated diagnostic (and therapeutic) procedures to post-operative management and the treatment of complications, both general and those following specialist surgery. It contains much useful information, but for house surgeons and senior house officers the chapters on wound care and post-operative drainage are particularly helpful.

The main weakness is in those sections dealing with specialist procedures such as angiography and cardiac catheterization. Here perhaps too much detail is given for some procedures not usually performed by the junior trainee. He can best learn from a combination of watching and asking the expert, reference to more comprehensive monographs, and practice under supervision. The occasional reference to "Dakin's solution" or "Sims position", without further description is mildly irritating. The first chapter dealing with conventional American ward rounds is not particularly relevant to this country. These are, however, but minor criticisms of a basically sound and good book.

W.A.H.

**PATHOLOGY** by the late J. L. Pinniger and revised by J. R. Tighe. Second Edition. (Pp. 288. 21s). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1967.

A second edition has been called for in three years and revisions in many sections have been made by Dr. Tighe.

While one may hold that the approach to pathology should be through general pathology integrated with the basic medical sciences, and that a larger canvas is needed even to introduce the subject, it must be admitted that the authors have produced a readable and highly informative text integrated with clinical practice. The authors justify the absence of illustrations by emphasising that the student should see diseased tissues at autopsies and in surgical specimens and under the microscope and should study colour transparencies. We think the student should also supplement the material given here by further reading, but students may find this a useful introduction and a help in organising their knowledge before examinations.

J.E.M.